

MADURA PASS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The article in "The West Australian" on Thursday last under the above heading, presumably recording an interview with Mr. James Grill, has got me a bit worried. I don't know Mr. Grill, but I have always had a very definite belief that all the boring operations in the Madura district were carried out under the direction of my old friend, the late H. C. Castilla, public works engineer, and I think the official records will show that he struck artesian water at the Madura station below the range, which gave a surface overflow of some thousands of gallons daily. This overflow was leased to Talbot, the owner of the station, at £5 per annum, and he constructed a tank to receive it just south of the reserve. After completing the work below the range, the party went 30 miles inland and put down a bore 425 feet, striking water fit for human consumption. It did not rise, however, and the well was subsequently equipped with a deep well pump, engine and boiler, and a storage tank. Eucla Graham, with a team of 12 camels, used alternatively with pack saddles or hauling a waggon, did all the transport work for Mr. Castilla who, in his frequent chats with me before his death, never tired of eulogising Graham for his capable services and valued companionship in the desert.

I have a photograph of Graham's camel team, and also one of the Madura homestead which I took in September, 1888. The valley through the range, now known as Madura Pass, starts almost at the back door of that building, and I find it difficult to reconcile the statement that the first load of boring material was taken up on a waggon drawn by 12 bullocks, or that it was necessary to go exploring to find a valley that had been known and used for about 20 years by successive holders of the stations.—Yours, etc.,

G. P. STEVENS.

Claremont.